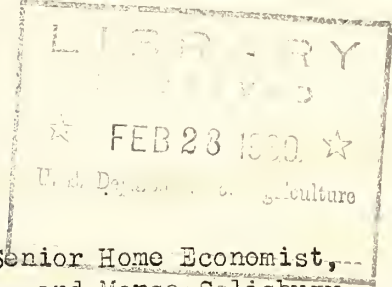


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"TOURIST HOMES"



A radio skit presented by Florence L. Hall, Senior Home Economist,-- Extension Service, Josephine Hemphill, Radio Service, and Morse Salisbury, Acting Director of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture, broadcast Tuesday, June 21, 1938, in the Department period of the National Farm and Home Hour, by a network of 90 stations associated with the National Broadcasting Company.

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WALLACE KADDERLY:

Josephine Hemphill is here today with a visitor from the Federal Extension Service -- Miss Florence Hall. Some time ago -- not long ago -- I was in Miss Hall's office and found her hard at work on a study of tourist homes, small inns, and hotels -- at home and abroad. Now, for the next ten minutes, she's going to be the manager of a model tourist home. Here she is-- sitting on the wide, cool, shady front porch -- talking with Josephine Hemphill.

JOSEPHINE HEMPHILL:

Miss Hall, I surely do like your place. The rooms are so big, and cool, and quiet. And the food's delicious. Where did you ever learn to make such wonderful chicken pie?

HALL:

Well, that's my specialty. Along with watermelon pickle, and popovers.

HEMPHILL:

No wonder tourists come here from all over the country.

HALL:

By the way, do you know a Mr. -- Salisbury?

HEMPHILL:

Salisbury? That must be Salisbury. S-a-l-i-s-b-u-r-y.

HALL:

Is that it. He doesn't write very plainly.

HEMPHILL:

Is he reserving a room here?

HALL:

Yes. The letter's right here in my knitting bag.

HEMPHILL:

He'll be surprised to see me -- getting a report of your study of tourist homes.

HALL:

He says in his letter: "Myself and party of four will arrive at your place Tuesday, in time for dinner."

(over)

HEMPHILL:

For dinner. Doesn't sound natural.

HALL:

"And if we like the food, we shall engage rooms for the night -- if we like the rooms." Pre-posterous!

HEMPHILL:

Read on. This is good.

HALL:

He says: "We are busy people, and we desire an atmosphere conducive to the pursuance of work, undisturbed by man or beast. Here is a list of what we want." Did you ever?

HEMPHILL:

I never did. Read the list.

HALL:

First, he wants "attractive house and grounds." Then, listen to this -- He says: "In the bedroom, which of course will be immaculate and restful, I want a comfortable bed with good mattress and springs. Sheets long enough to stay on the bed. Clean woolen blankets."

HEMPHILL:

Is he expecting a blizzard? Read on.

HALL:

"A sufficient number of lights, for dressing, writing, and reading. A rack for suitcases. Plenty of coat hangers in the clothes closet. Windows that push up and down easily. Screens at windows."

HEMPHILL:

No breakfast in bed?

HALL:

He wants "a clean, orderly bath room. Plenty of hot and cold water, and plenty of good-sized towels." Miss Hemphill, hasn't that gentleman ever been around?

HEMPHILL:

Why -- yes -- he gets around.

HALL:

Doesn't he know that modern tourist homes have all these things?

HEMPHILL:

Why --

HALL:

Do you know what I'd call that man?

HEMPHILL:

HALL:

Cantankerous. That's what I'd call him. Cantankerous!

HEMPHILL:

You'd call him that to his face?

HALL:

Why not?

HEMPHILL:

Why not indeed! Do you happen to know who Mr. Salisbury is?

HALL:

Never met the man. Wouldn't know him from Adam.

HEMPHILL:

(He wears a last-year's Panama. Mr. Salisbury.) He's all right, Miss Hall. He holds a responsible job in the Department of Agriculture. He's a hard-working --

HALL:

I still say he's a --

HEMPHILL:

Oh! Oh! Watch out. . .

SALISBURY:

Good afternoon. Miss Florence Hall, I presume?

HALL:

Yes. Mr. Salisbury?

SALISBURY:

How are you. I've heard a great deal about this delightful place of yours. It's charming.

HALL:

I understand from your letter you're rather particular -- about tourist homes.

SALISBURY:

Well, once bitten, twice shy -- if you know what I mean. Is that Miss Hemphill behind the trumpet vine?

HEMPHILL:

None other.

SALISBURY:

If I got ship-wrecked on a desert island, I'd find Josephine there, with her notebook.

HEMPHILL:

Like as not. I'm getting a story from Miss Hall about her trip to Europe. Morse, she traveled in ten countries, and stayed in forty-eight

hotels and small inns -- a different one every night.

SALISBURY:

You don't say!

HALL:

Mr. Salisbury, won't you come up on the porch and join us?

SALISBURY:

I'd be delighted.

HALL:

Here -- take this chair.

SALISBURY:

Thank you. It's rather warm today -- in the sunshine.

HALL:

Yes, it is warm. (Mary! Oh Mary! Some lemonade please.)

SALISBURY:

So you were abroad last year. What did you like best about the tourist homes in Europe?

HALL:

Well, thinking back over the trip, things that stand out in my mind are the kindness and courtesy of the people, and the clean-ness of the places we stayed in -- open fires on cool nights and mornings -- and flowers everywhere.

SALISBURY:

Say, what about the coffee? I've heard --

HALL:

Well, our coffee suits me better.

SALISBURY:

That's what I've heard other people say. And you say there were lots of flowers?

HALL:

Oh yes -- flowers everywhere. In Germany, houses are most attractive -- so many window boxes with red geraniums, and purple and white petunias. Then in England, along the village streets, they had little narrow gardens in the front yards -- old-fashioned flowers like delphinium and larkspur, English daisies, Canterbury bells.

HEMPHILL:

And marigolds?

HALL:

Yes, marigolds, Sweet William -- I don't know what all. And hollyhocks.



SALISBURY:

Is it an English custom to have flowers growing outside a fence?

HALL:

Yes, it is. How do you like the custom?

SALISBURY:

I endorse it heartily. We slowed up, as soon as we saw your flowers. Pretty as a picture, those hollyhocks against your white picket fence.

HALL:

They are pretty, aren't they. Another thing that impressed me about England -- bedrooms and bathrooms were spotless. Fresh, clean, wall-paper everywhere. Always a generous supply of towels. And some one was always cleaning. They'd polish and shine -- all day long. Polish and shine -- sweep and dust. Another thing, in England, in contrast to some other European countries -- all tourists were furnished with soap.

SALISBURY:

Say, that reminds me. I didn't write soap down on my list, but I suppose, --

HALL:

Mr. Salisbury, I always furnish soap. No manager of a tourist home in the United States would think of leaving out the soap.

SALISBURY:

Begging your pardon, that's where you're a trifle wrong, Miss Hall. One time -- I'll never forget it -- I stopped at a place where there wasn't even a sliver of soap! Not a sliver. And no towels -- unless you call a thin, sleazy rag a towel. I call a rag a rag.

HALL:

Well, I'd say you've been unfortunate.

SALISBURY:

That's why I sent you a list. If I ever stop again, at a place where I have to balance my suitcase on the arms of a rocking-chair, and read by the light of a 10-watt bulb, stuck in the middle of a high ceiling, and sleep on a mattress somebody's left corn-cobs in -- I tell you, Miss Hall -- I TELL YOU --

HALL:

Why, you can --

HEMPHILL:

You can take it, Morse, Morse! She means you can take it!

SALISBURY:

Thank you, Miss Hall. You are a woman of discernment. I can take it. But there's a limit. Why don't tourist homes have an ash-tray? Why don't they have a waste-basket? Why don't they have ink, and a pen that will write? Why don't they give you a looking glass you can see yourself in? Is there any good reason -- on the good, round, earth, why --

HEMPHILL:

Mister Salisbury!

SALISBURY:

Miss Hemphill, Miss Hall -- I beg your pardon. But the memory of the corn-cob -- in that mattress -- well, sometimes, even yet, it gets me down.

HALL:

Well now -- if I decide -- to let you stay --

SALISBURY:

What's that?

HALL:

Have you any references?

SALISBURY:

Have I any -- what?

HALL:

Well, I'm particular. Do you walk away with the teaspoons? Do you polish your shoes with a bath towel? Do you keep late hours? Do you let the radio run all hours of the night? Do you --

SALISBURY:

What is all this?

HEMPHILL:

Miss Hall -- Miss Hall -- tell us more about the tourist homes in Europe. Is the furniture like ours?

HALL:

Why no -- I would say it's larger, and heavier.

HEMPHILL:

Were the beds comfortable?

HALL:

Yes, as a rule, they were. Plenty of clean blankets -- and always an extra one.

HEMPHILL:

That's fine.

SALISBURY:

Is it pretty cool over there in the summer time?

HALL:

Well, it seemed much cooler than our climate. In England and Scotland -- it was often damp and rainy.



SALISBURY:

That's where you'd appreciate an open fire.

HALL:

I certainly did. Many of the bedrooms had a fireplace or gas grate, and bed-warmers of various kinds. Now there's an idea for tourist-home managers who cater to ski-ing parties -- and skating parties.

SALISBURY:

(Not bad. I'll put that down on my list next time -- Foot warmer.)

HEMPHILL:

You don't ski.

SALISBURY:

Miss Hall, I suppose you were always made to feel welcome, in Europe?

HALL:

Everywhere. Even the children were kind and courteous to us. You know there's a Chinese proverb -- "A man without a smiling face should not open a shop."

SALISBURY:

And he shouldn't. Miss Hall, your pleasant smile was the first thing I noticed about you. And I was just thinking -- by contrast -- of that place I stayed in. They didn't even furnish sheets. Can you imagine asking a man pay twenty-five cents extra for a sheet? Since then, I've carried my own. Got 'em right here.

HALL:

You mean to tell me you brought your own sheets to my tourist home?

SALISBURY:

Madam, I did! I'm not going to pay twenty-five cents extra for a sheet in anybody's tourist home!

HALL:

Mr. Salisbury, you are UNDOUBTEDLY one of the most can--

HEMPHILL:

You're a canny man, Morse! She means you're a canny tourist -- to carry your own sheets like that!

HALL:

I never heard of such foolishness.

SALISBURY:

But, of course, if you provide sheets --

HALL:

I simply never heard of such --

MARY:

Here's the lemonade, ma'am.

HALL:

Thank you, Mary.

HEMPHILL:

My, that looks good.

SALISBURY:

Well well well! What more could a man ask for, on a hot day like this! Miss Hall, I've made up my mind. We're going to stay.

HALL:

You've made up --

SALISBURY:

Yes ma'am, we're going to stay. Excuse me just a minute, while I ask the other fellows to come in. I'll be right back. Gordon -- Baukhage -- Stead -- (TRAILING OFF)

HALL:

Heavenly days, Miss Hemphill! Heav-en-ly days!

HEMPHILL:

What you tourist managers have to put up with! My land! You'll need more glassos -- and more lemonade.

KADDERLY:

. . . . Miss Hall, do you have an extra glass for me?

HALL:

Indeed we do, Mr. Kadderly. Here -- you take this one.

KADDERLY:

I'll be with you in just a minute. Farm and Home friends, you have just heard a report on tourist homes, by Florence Hall of the Federal Extension Service, aided and abetted by Josephine Hemphill and Morse Salisbury. Now, at least one State in the Union, the State of Maine, has prepared an illustrated bulletin on this subject. The supply is not large, so we are going to limit the offer to managers of tourist homes. Turning quickly through my copy of the bulletin, I see it includes information on signs, outside appearance, what the paying guest has a right to expect, (Why don't they ask Mr. Salisbury?) -- bedroom interiors, food, menu-planning and table-setting, -- suggestions from successful hostesses. Anyone who manages a tourist home, and needs this publication, may get a copy from the Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. Just ask for the bulletin on "Tourist Homes." Miss Hall, is this tourist home on the cover of the bulletin the one you've been describing?

HALL:

That's the very one we had in mind.

KADDERLY:

I hope I can stop there some time. And thank you, Miss Hall --  
for your part in today's program. Come again.

HALL:

Thank you, Mr. Kadderly.

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